United Nations A/64/585–S/2009/661

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 December 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 14
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 17 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the annexed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 12 December 2009, on "elections" in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Permanent Representative

09-66231 (E) 231209

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on "elections" in Abkhazia

The occupant regime, which has been established on the occupied territory of Georgia, namely in Abkhazia, is putting up another show titled "presidential elections," in which the creature, selected by Moscow long ago, will be announced "president" of the proxy regime.

Undoubtedly, these so-called elections, and other similar types of farces, are illegal and unreservedly lack legitimacy. It is impossible to find any sort of justification for this episode in view of the prevalent conditions, when ethnic cleansing has taken place several times on this territory of Georgia, resulting in three fourths of the indigenous populations being expelled and their property seized and robbed. Thereby, the banished Georgians, Ukrainians, Armenians, Greeks, Azerbaijanis, Estonians and others cannot exercise their right to partake in determining the future of their homeland. Under these circumstances, the act of holding any sort of so-called elections is not only fraudulent by nature, but also constitutes an act of sacrilege.

In addition, it has to be duly noted that the remaining part of the population on the territory of Abkhazia is deprived of any fundamental rights and freedoms, which have furthermore become a subject of gross violations on a massive scale — whether it concerns their rights to receive education in a native language, or their freedom of movement. Even in cases when the issue is providing healthcare or medical treatment to the local population, the proxy regime and their patrons do not allow the residents of the occupied regions to cross the line of occupation.

It is widely acknowledged that the report produced by the so-called "Tagliavini Commission" unequivocally states that the so-called "independence" declared by the proxy regimes of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, along with their "recognition", is outright illegal and categorically contravenes the universally recognized principles and norms of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia appeals to all members of the international community to give a proper assessment of another farce conducted in one of the occupied regions of Georgia, and to continue steadily the non-recognition policy with regard to these regions.

Tbilisi, December 12, 2009

United Nations A/64/586

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 December 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 153
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

The present report contains the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

In view of the phasing-out of UNMEE substantive and military activities starting from 31 July 2008, the total expenditure for the Mission for that period has been linked to its objective to accomplish administrative liquidation of the Mission through a results-based support component framework.

Performance of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.)

			Variance	
Category	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Military and police personnel	5 543.1	5 122.7	420.4	7.6
Civilian personnel	10 171.5	12 613.7	(2 442.2)	(24.0)
Operational costs	21 301.8	13 268.6	8 033.2	37.7
Gross requirements	**37 016.4**	**31 005.0**	**6 011.4**	**16.2**
Staff assessment income	1 111.4	1 393.5	(282.1)	(25.4)
Net requirements	**35 905.0**	**29 611.5**	**6 293.5**	**17.5**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—
Total requirements	**37 016.4**	**31 005.0**	**6 011.4**	**16.2**

Human resources incumbency performance

Category	*Approved*[a]	*Planned (average)*	*Actual (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*[b]
Military observers	71	30	30	—
Military contingents	239	140	137	2.2
International staff	138	98	95	3.1
National staff	193	119	117	1.7
United Nations Volunteers	55	41	43	(4.9)
Temporary positions[c]				
International staff	1	1	0	100.0

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

[b] Based on monthly incumbency and monthly strength.

[c] Funded under general temporary assistance.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section VI of the present report.

I. Introduction

1. The initial budget forth United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 22 April 2008 on the financing of the Mission (A/62/811) and amounted to $100,367,400 gross ($98,027,600 net). It provided for resource requirements for the maintenance of the Mission, comprising 230 military observers, 1,470 military contingent personnel, 177 international staff, 219 national staff and 68 United Nations Volunteers.

2. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report on the financing of UNMEE (A/62/781/Add.17/Corr.1, para. 28) recommended that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $100,367,400 gross ($98,027,600 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, subject to the extension of the Mission's mandate by the Security Council. In the same report, the Advisory Committee also recommended assessment of an amount of $50,183,700 for a six-month period, consisting of an amount of $8,363,950 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 and an amount of $41,819,750 for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2008, pending a decision on the future of UNMEE. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit a report to the Assembly no later than 30 November 2008 on progress in the implementation of the initial budget contained in the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General, in order to provide for a revised appropriation and a further assessment, if required.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/259, decided to appropriate the amount of $105,010,000 for the maintenance of UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided to apportion among Member States the amount of $8,750,833 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 and the amount of $46,075,167 for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2008 for the maintenance of the Mission, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to submit a report to the Assembly no later than 30 November 2008 on progress in the implementation of the budget, in order to provide for a revised appropriation and a further assessment, if required.

5. Subsequently, the Security Council, in its resolution 1827 (2008), decided to terminate the Mission's mandate on 31 July 2008. In this connection, a revised budget of UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNMEE (A/63/546 and Corr.1) was submitted to the General Assembly. The revised budget amounted to $37,016,400 gross ($35,905,000 net) and represented a decrease of $63,351,000 gross ($62,122,600 net) over resources appropriated by the Assembly for the Mission in its resolution 62/259.

6. The revised budget provided for the phased repatriation of military and civilian personnel as well as for the financial resources for the administrative liquidation of the Mission during the six-month period from 1 August 2008 to 31 January 2009.

7. The revised budget also took into account the temporary relocation and subsequent repatriation to their home countries of the Mission's military contingent personnel which had commenced during the 2007/08 financial period owing to restrictions imposed on UNMEE by the Eritrean authorities. Pursuant to the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2008/368 and S/2008/427), the temporarily relocated military contingent personnel are considered as repatriated with effect from 5 June 2008.

8. In its resolution 63/257 A, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee contained in its report on UNMEE (A/63/602), decided to reduce the appropriation of $100,367,400 approved for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 under the terms of its resolution 62/259 by the amount of $63,351,000, to $37,016,400. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided to apportion among Member States the amount of $28,652,450 for the administrative liquidation of the Mission for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009, in addition to the amount of $8,750,833 already apportioned for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 under the terms of its resolution 62/259. Subsequently, the total amount of $37,403,283 was assessed on Member States for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

II. Mandate performance

A. Overall

9. The mandate of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea was established by the Security Council in its resolutions 1312 (2000) and 1320 (2000). In its resolution 1798 (2008), the Council extended the mandate of UNMEE for a period of six months, until 31 July 2008. By its subsequent resolution 1827 (2008), the Council decided to terminate the mandate of the Mission with effect from 31 July 2008.

10. The Mission, which terminated on 31 July 2008, was mandated to help the Security Council achieve an overall objective, namely, the peaceful settlement of the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

11. Within this overall objective, UNMEE has, during the performance report period, contributed to the effective and efficient administrative liquidation of the Mission by delivering related key outputs, shown in the support component framework below.

12. The present report assesses actual performance against the planned results-based-budgeting framework set out in the 2008/09 budget (A/63/546 and Corr.1). In particular, the report compares the actual indicator of achievement, that is, the extent to which actual progress has been made during the period against the expected accomplishment, with the planned indicator of achievement, and the actually completed outputs with the planned outputs.

B. Budget implementation

13. The total expenditure for the financial period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, covering the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008

and the liquidation of UNMEE for the period from 1 August 2008 to 10 March 2009, amounted to $31,005,000, which is $6,011,400 less than the financial resources of $37,016,400 appropriated for the Mission for the period by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/257 A.

14. Among the main factors that impacted the implementation of the Mission's budget during the reporting period was the accelerated actual drawdown of the military component of the Mission from a strength of 215 contingent personnel in July 2008 to 32 personnel in October 2008, which resulted in reduced resource requirements with regard to the cost of the use of their contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment. In addition, a number of contingents were not fully self-sustained as planned, in particular in the areas of facilities and infrastructure, communications, medical and special equipment, which also contributed to lower costs with regard to the reimbursement of troop-contributing Governments.

15. As indicated in the support component framework in the present report, UNMEE implemented environmental protection measures at all locations vacated by the Mission, including collection and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated by the Mission in an environmentally friendly manner. During the liquidation period, UNMEE ensured that all premises were cleaned and handed over to current owners in their original condition and obtained handover/takeover certificates issued by property owners, indemnifying the Mission from environmental and other liabilities in all UNMEE operational locations.

16. The liquidation commenced immediately after the termination of the mandate by the Security Council in its resolution 1827 (2008). The liquidation period, initially set for six months, was extended by one month until 10 March 2009 owing to unanticipated delays in the final recovery and disposal of UNMEE assets in the Mission.

17. At the time of the mandate termination on 31 July 2008, military and substantive components were still in the Mission area. While the majority of the Eritrean-based military component had been repatriated in March and May 2008 following the relocation, there were still 300 military personnel in Ethiopia, comprised of military contingents and observers, as well as several in Eritrea. The final repatriation was completed at the end of October 2008 and by March 2009, respectively, for the military component and for substantive and support civilian staff.

18. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNMEE (A/63/728), the Mission identified assets with an inventory value of $1,398,500 and a corresponding residual value of $421,800 for donation to the Government of Ethiopia as well as assets with an inventory value of $6,911,400 and a corresponding residual value of $1,967,900 for donation to the African Union in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia, both of which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 63/554. The assets were donated during the reporting period. The assets identified for donation to the Government of Eritrea, with an inventory value of $6,082,100 and a corresponding residual value of $2,299,300, could not be donated, as the Permanent Mission of Eritrea, in its note verbale dated 25 February 2009, informed the Secretariat of the United Nations that the donation of UNMEE assets was not accepted by the communities concerned in Eritrea. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was subsequently informed that since UNMEE had already finalized the field liquidation

process, terminated the service contracts and repatriated its staff, the Mission would not be in a position to recover the remaining assets, which accordingly were declared abandoned in situ.

19. During the reporting period, the process of liquidating the assets of UNMEE was guided by the principles contained in regulation 5.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. Some assets were transferred to other United Nations peacekeeping missions within the region, including the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Some assets were also transferred to other United Nations missions outside the region, including the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, some assets not required by the current and future United Nations missions were transferred to other United Nations entities, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Some assets not required for current or future peacekeeping operations, originally marked for commercial disposal in Eritrea, were sold at a nominal value to the offices of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund in Asmara, as the process of dismantling and shipment to the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy (UNLB), would have rendered them unusable, and any proceeds of sales would not have covered the shipping costs. Other assets were shipped to the Logistics Base for commercial disposal. Given the value of assets that were disposed of within the region, savings were realized in relation to budgeted freight costs.

C. Results-based-budgeting frameworks

Support component

20. As detailed in the support component framework below, during the reporting period UNMEE provided logistical, administrative and security services to accomplish the objective of effective and efficient completion of the administrative liquidation of the Mission. The range of support services comprised those for personnel administration, maintenance of health-care arrangements, information technology, communications, air operations, air and surface transport operations, supply and re-supply operations, as well as security services Mission-wide. The support services also comprised the services for maintenance of office and accommodation facilities and their handover to appropriate authorities, including private owners, with due regard to environmental concerns.

Expected accomplishment 1.1: Effective and efficient completion of the administrative liquidation of the Mission

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
Issuance of handover/takeover certificates by property owners, indemnifying UNMEE from environmental and other liabilities in all 31 locations	Obtained handover/takeover certificates for each premise from their owners, indemnifying UNMEE from environmental and other liabilities

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Service improvements		
Implementation of environmental protection measures at all locations vacated by the Mission, including collection and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated by the Mission in an environmentally friendly manner and the restoration of all sites to their original condition	Yes	Premises were cleaned and handed over to current owners in their original condition
Military and civilian personnel		
Repatriation of 242 military contingent personnel and 83 military observers	Yes	Repatriation of all military personnel completed by 17 October 2008
Repatriation of contingent-owned equipment remaining in the Mission area as at 1 July 2008	Yes	Repatriation completed by 14 October 2008
Administration of an average of 112 international staff, 136 national staff and 41 United Nations Volunteers	Yes	Administered an average of 95 international staff and 117 national staff for the 8-month period and 43 United Nations Volunteers for the 7-month period
Repatriation of 143 international staff and 60 United Nations Volunteers, and separation of 193 national staff	Yes	Repatriation completed by 10 March 2009
Facilities and infrastructure		
Maintenance of premises in 21 locations throughout the Mission area	Yes	
Restoration to the original condition and handover of 31 premises and sites	Yes	All premises restored and handed over to the owners
Operation, maintenance and disposal of 13 United Nations-owned generators at 9 facilities	Yes	Asset disposal completed for all generators

Ground transportation		
Operation, maintenance and disposal of 274 vehicles, including 6 armoured vehicles, and vehicle attachments in 4 locations	Yes	All vehicles disposed of through either transfers or donation
Air transportation		
Operation and maintenance of 2 fixed-wing and 3 rotary-wing aircraft	Yes	Aircraft maintained in UNMEE up to August 2008
Communications		
Operation, maintenance and disposal of a satellite network consisting of 1 hub station and 16 very small aperture terminals (VSAT)	Yes	1 hub station and 16 VSAT operated and maintained prior to their disposal
Operation, maintenance and disposal of 12 telephone exchanges and 7 microwave links	Yes	12 telephone exchanges and 7 microwave links operated and maintained prior to their disposal
Operation, maintenance and disposal of a radio network consisting of 206 very high frequency (VHF) mobile (vehicle mount) radios, 14 VHF base station radios, 19 high frequency (HF) base stations radios, 224 hand-held VHF mobile radios, 12 VHF repeaters and 10 narrow-band digital radio systems to provide voice, fax, video and data communications at 21 locations	Yes	The equipment was operated and maintained prior to disposal. The various equipment was decommissioned on a phased basis as part of the overall liquidation process
Information technology		
Support, maintenance and disposal of 47 servers, 342 desktop computers, 109 laptop computers, 126 printers and 50 digital senders at 21 locations	Yes	The equipment was operated and maintained prior to the disposal process. Decommissioning was executed on a phased basis as part of the overall liquidation process
Maintenance and operation of a disaster recovery and business continuity system, including 3 servers and 4 one-terabyte external drives at 2 locations until completion of the administrative liquidation of the Mission	Yes	The disaster recovery and business continuity system was operated and maintained followed by the disposal process as part of the liquidation process
Support and maintenance of local area networks (LAN) and wide area networks (WAN) for 488 users at 21 locations	Yes	LAN and WAN supported and maintained prior to decommissioning as part of the liquidation process
Operation and maintenance of the wireless network for 148 users	Yes	Wireless network operated and maintained prior to decommissioning and disposal as part of the overall Mission liquidation process

Medical		
Operation and maintenance of one civilian level-I clinic for Mission personnel, and maintenance of land and air evacuation arrangements	Yes	Medical services were provided until the end of February 2009 when all personnel, except 1, had left the Mission area
Security		
Provision of security 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the Mission area and close protection for senior Mission staff and visiting high-level officials	Yes	Security for personnel maintained until the repatriation of all personnel at the end of February 2009
Investigation of incidents/accidents involving United Nations personnel and property	Yes	
Mission-wide site security assessment, including residential surveys at 40 residences	Yes	
Liquidation		
Disposition of approximately 16,400 non-expendable asset items with an inventory value of approximately $56.6 million and approximately 2,258,000 expendable asset items with an inventory value of approximately $13.1 million through transfer to the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy, and to other peacekeeping missions, donation to the host Governments, commercial disposal through sales and destruction of unusable items	Yes	*Non-expendable items* 16,211 items with an inventory value of $56.2 million disposed of *Expendable items* (1) Construction material shipped to UNAMID and UNMIS; (2) Vehicle spare parts shipped to UNLB
Reconciliation and closing of 4 bank accounts	No	3 bank accounts pending closure owing to the fact that numerous vendors submitted invoices in the last few days of February 2009. This caused delays in bank reconciliation
Settlement of vendor and supplier invoices and closure of 118 contracts	Yes	Contracts closed and vendors paid

III. Resource performance

A. Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.)

Category	Apportionment (1)	Expenditure (2)	Variance Amount (3)=(1)-(2)	Variance Percentage (4)=(3)÷(1)
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	618.4	670.3	(51.9)	(8.4)
Military contingents	4 924.7	4 452.4	472.3	9.6
United Nations police	—	—	—	—
Formed police units	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**5 543.1**	**5 122.7**	**420.4**	**7.6**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	8 205.2	10 337.9	(2 132.7)	(26.0)
National staff	807.2	923.9	(116.7)	(14.5)
United Nations Volunteers	1 148.8	1 351.9	(203.1)	(17.7)
General temporary assistance	10.3	—	10.3	100.0
Subtotal	**10 171.5**	**12 613.7**	**(2 442.2)**	**(24.0)**
Operational costs				
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—
Consultants	—	—	—	—
Official travel	227.6	135.8	91.8	40.3
Facilities and infrastructure	3 707.8	2 944.3	763.5	20.6
Ground transportation	651.3	323.6	327.7	50.3
Air transportation	3 969.6	2 184.0	1 785.6	45.0
Naval transportation	—	—	—	—
Communications	767.0	645.3	121.7	15.9
Information technology	268.7	362.9	(94.2)	(35.1)
Medical	91.2	274.8	(183.6)	(201.3)
Special equipment	26.0	19.2	6.8	26.2
Other supplies, services and equipment	11 592.6	6 378.7	5 213.9	45.0
Quick-impact projects	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**21 301.8**	**13 268.6**	**8 033.2**	**37.7**
Gross requirements	**37 016.4**	**31 005.0**	**6 011.4**	**16.2**
Staff assessment income	1 111.4	1 393.5	(282.1)	(25.4)
Net requirements	**35 905.0**	**29 611.5**	**6 293.5**	**17.5**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—
Total requirements	**37 016.4**	**31 005.0**	**6 011.4**	**16.2**

B. Other income and adjustments

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Amount*
Interest income	318.3
Other/miscellaneous income	1 168.8
Voluntary contributions in cash	—
Prior-period adjustments	(12.3)
Cancellation of prior-period obligations	1 875.4
Total	**3 350.2**

C. Expenditure for contingent-owned equipment: major equipment and self-sustainment

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Expenditure*
Major equipment	
Military observers	—
Military contingents	282.9
Formed police units	—
Subtotal	**282.9**
Self-sustainment	
Facilities and infrastructure	83.1
Communications	41.2
Medical	14.2
Special equipment	19.2
Subtotal	**157.7**
Total	**440.6**

Mission factors	*Percentage*	*Effective date*	*Last review date*
A. Applicable to Mission area			
Extreme environmental condition factor	1.0	1 July 2004	1 July 2002
Intensified operational condition factor	4.0	1 July 2004	1 July 2002
Hostile action/forced abandonment factor	2.0	1 July 2004	1 July 2002
B. Applicable to home country			
Incremental transportation factor	0.25-3.50		

IV. Analysis of variances[1]

	Variance	
Military observers	($51.9)	(8.4%)

21. The additional requirements resulted mainly from the fact that the three-month average of 48 military observers actually deployed was higher than the three-month average strength of 40 budgeted observers given the slower than planned drawdown of military observers before the final closure of the Mission.

	Variance	
Military contingents	$472.3	9.6%

22. The unutilized balance resulted mainly from the faster than planned drawdown of military contingents upon termination of the Mission on 31 July 2008. The budget estimate included a maximum deployment of 239 military contingent personnel in July 2008, with a monthly average strength of 141 for the four-month period until October 2008. However, the actual deployment was an average of 137 military contingent personnel for the period.

	Variance	
International staff	($2 132.7)	(26.0%)

23. The additional requirements were mainly attributable to the average overall vacancy rate of 3.1 per cent being lower than the rate of 10 per cent estimated in the budget. The decrease was due to the delay in the departure of international staff resulting from the longer than planned assets disposal process for the Mission as part of the UNMEE liquidation.

24. Additional requirements were also attributable to expenditures for separation costs, including travel of all international staff to their respective home country, parent duty station or other peacekeeping operations following the termination of the Mission. The budget did not include additional provisions under common staff costs for such entitlements.

	Variance	
National staff	($116.7)	(14.5%)

25. The additional requirements reflect mainly higher-than-budgeted actual payments for salaries and staff assessment to national staff during the eight-month period. The actual payments were equivalent to level 5, step VIII, of the local salary scales, while the budget was based on level 4, step VI, of the same salary scales.

[1] Resource variance amounts are expressed in thousands of United States dollars. Analysis is provided for variances of at least plus or minus 5 per cent or $100,000.

	Variance	
United Nations Volunteers	($203.1)	(17.7%)

26. The additional requirements were due to the fact that the seven-month average strength of United Nations Volunteers actually deployed (43) was higher than that budgeted (41) owing to the slower than planned drawdown of Volunteers before the final closure of the Mission.

27. Overexpenditure was also due to the higher than budgeted cost of repatriation air travel for international United Nations Volunteers to their home country or other peacekeeping operations following the termination of the Mission.

	Variance	
General temporary assistance	$10.3	100%

28. The unutilized balance was attributable to non-utilization of provisions for the recruitment of a temporary Field Service staff member.

	Variance	
Official travel	$91.8	40.3%

29. Savings were due mainly to reduced travel requirements within the Mission area as a result of restrictions imposed on UNMEE by the Eritrean authorities for liquidation activities.

	Variance	
Facilities and infrastructure	$763.5	20.6%

30. The unutilized balance was attributable mainly to the lower than budgeted cost for cleaning and dismantling the majority of the sites and United Nations facilities for which minimal repairs were required before they were handed over to the proper authorities.

31. The savings were also attributable to the lower than budgeted consumption of generator fuel owing to the earlier than planned closure of the majority of the United Nations offices in the Mission area.

	Variance	
Ground transportation	$327.7	50.3%

32. The unutilized balance resulted mainly from less than planned travel carried out by the Mission's vehicles and rental vehicles within the Mission area, and related lower consumption of petrol, oil and lubricants as a result of restrictions imposed on UNMEE by the Eritrean authorities for liquidation activities.

	Variance	
Air transportation	$1 785.6	45.0%

33. Savings resulted from the lower than planned number of hours flown by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, with related reduced requirements for aviation fuel

and landing fees and ground handling charges owing to the fact that flights between the Mission's main offices in Addis Ababa and Asmara were submitted for approval by the local authority on a case-by-case basis.

		Variance
Communications	$121.7	15.9%

34. The unutilized balance was due mainly to the reduction of the UNMEE pro-rated share for the rental of satellite transponders as a result of the establishment and expansion of peacekeeping missions.

		Variance
Information technology	($94.2)	(35.1%)

35. The additional requirements were due largely to the higher than projected costs for the acquisition of software and licences as well as information technology support services during the reporting period.

		Variance
Medical	($183.6)	(201.3%)

36. The overexpenditure was attributable to the cost of vaccinating troops, which was carried out in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The claims for payments for the vaccinations were only submitted during the reporting period.

		Variance
Special equipment	$6.8	26.2%

37. The unutilized balance was due to the slightly lower than budgeted requirements for contingent-owned special equipment.

		Variance
Other supplies, services and equipment	$5 213.9	45.0%

38. The savings were attributable mainly to the lower than budgeted freight and related costs owing to the fact that a large number of UNMEE assets were transferred to other peacekeeping missions in Africa or donated to the African Union rather than shipped, as originally planned, to UNLB.

V. Financial position of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 30 June 2009

39. As shown in the table below, cash available in the special account of UNMEE as at 30 June 2009 amounted to $15,142,400 and cash required to cover total liabilities recorded at the same date in the Mission's accounts amounted to $5,785,700, resulting in a cash surplus of $9,356,700. Credits due to Member States for the period ended 30 June 2009 amounted to $9,748,500, including the unencumbered balance of $6,398,300 against the amount of $37,403,283 assessed on Member States for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and other income

of $3,350,200. Accordingly, the cash shortfall amounted to $391,800 in the Mission's accounts as at 30 June 2009.

Summary of financial position as at 30 June 2008

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Amount*
I. Cash assets	**15 142.4**
II. Cash requirements (liabilities)	
Accounts payable to Member States	1 915.0
Contributions or payments received in advance	171.0
Unliquidated obligations, including prior-period obligations	2 383.2
Inter-fund balances payable and other liabilities	1 316.5
Subtotal	**5 785.7**
III. Cash surplus (I less II)	**9 356.7**
IV. Credits due to Member States from the 2008/09 period	
Unencumbered balance	6 398.3
Other income	
Interest income	318.3
Other/miscellaneous income	1 168.8
Cancellation of prior-period obligations	1 875.4
Subtotal, other income	**3 362.5**
Prior-period adjustments	**(12.3)**
Total, credits due to Member States from the 2008/09 period	**9 748.5**
V. Cash shortfall (III less IV)	**(391.8)**

VI. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

40. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMEE are:**

(a) **To decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $6,398,283 against the amount of $37,403,283 assessed on Member States for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009;**

(b) **To decide on the treatment of other income for the period ended 30 June 2009 amounting to $3,350,200 from interest income ($318,300), other/miscellaneous income ($1,168,800) and cancellation of prior-period obligations ($1,875,400), offset by prior-period adjustments ($12,300).**

United Nations A/64/587

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 December 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda items 130 and 140

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Review of the practice of the Secretariat regarding the sharing of information contained in reports of consultants on management-related issues

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

"The modalities for sharing information in consultants' reports should take into account that consultants' reports are used solely as inputs for management decisions; sharing them with Member States may diminish the objectivity of the inputs and dilute management accountability for policy proposals submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly"

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/276, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted a review of the informal practice of the Secretariat of sharing information in consultants' reports on management-related issues. In the absence of a specific definition, management-related issues were deemed to be those dealing with the general administration of the Organization's activities.

The conclusion of OIOS is that the modalities for sharing information in consultants' reports should take into account that consultants' reports are used solely as inputs for management decisions; sharing them with Member States may diminish the objectivity of the inputs and dilute management accountability for policy proposals submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

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The United Nations periodically hires consultants to provide expertise not available in the Secretariat and for which there is not a long-term need. The principal outputs of such consultancies are reports containing advice or recommendations on the subject matter on which the consultant's assistance was sought. Consultants' reports may be used to provide input into policy proposals or reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. While declining to grant the Fifth Committee access to some consultants' reports, the Secretariat indicated that information in such reports was shared with relevant departments and offices as required.

The objectives of the OIOS review were to determine the extent to which information on management-related issues in consultants' reports is shared within and between departments and offices of the Secretariat and to assess the attitude of departments and offices towards sharing consultants' reports with legislative bodies and Member States. OIOS carried out the review by conducting a survey of 12 departments and offices in the Secretariat and reviewing available documents.

The results of the survey revealed that consultants' reports were not widely shared within departments. Some 52 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not store the reports in a central location where they could be accessed by staff members outside the division or service that commissioned the consultancy. Conversely, most respondents (78 per cent) indicated that they shared consultants' reports with other departments and offices to which they felt the reports would be relevant. However, OIOS found that this determination was made without applying any established criteria. There were also no criteria to determine when requests for access to consultants' reports should be granted.

Although respondents from some departments and offices were willing to share consultants' reports with legislative bodies or Member States, others were reluctant, especially where they: (a) had not accepted the recommendations of the consultants; (b) thought that the methodologies adopted were not rigorous enough; (c) thought that the subject matter of the consultancy was of no relevance to those bodies; or (d) thought that it would be inappropriate to do so, as the consultants' reports were to be used as input for policy decisions in conjunction with other considerations. These departments preferred that the legislative bodies or Member States rely on the related report of the Secretary-General. Some departments and offices were concerned that if consultants were aware that their reports would be widely available it would impair the candidness of the consultants' advice or assessment and thus limit the value of their reports to management. One office indicated that it would be necessary to redraft certain parts of a consultant's report or provide some context for the report before sharing it to prevent misunderstanding.

OIOS concluded that the concerns expressed by departments and offices were valid. Consultants' reports are advisory in nature and making them available to legislative bodies and Member States may impute to them the status of widely accepted guidance or a standard that the Secretariat must adopt, which may be inaccurate. However, where consultants' reports are used as input for reports to legislative bodies, the related report of the Secretary-General should clearly indicate that information from consultants was used in its preparation and, at a minimum, include a succinct explanation of the background of the consultancies and how the information has been used. OIOS recommends that the modalities for sharing information in consultants' reports being developed by the Secretary-General include this requirement.

The existing guidelines set out in the bulletin, which should assist departments and offices in categorizing consultants' reports on the basis of their sensitivity and guiding the decision on whether the reports can be made available when requested had not been implemented. Respondents to the survey indicated that they required more guidance, and efforts are under way to develop a relevant toolkit.

To enhance the practice of sharing consultants' reports within the Secretariat, a mechanism is needed to inform departments and offices of the consultancies carried out. A taxonomy needs to be developed to categorize consultants' reports, and they need to be stored in a central repository. Where consultancies relate to matters that are of a highly confidential nature, the related reports should be given the appropriate protection through the designation "confidential" or "strictly confidential" and should be shared only in exceptional cases, using the precautions outlined in existing guidelines. Departments and offices should pay more attention to the proper categorization of documents and develop criteria to guide staff in categorizing documents and sharing reports or information contained in reports in accordance with the existing guidelines.

The Department of Management accepted all of the recommendations contained in the present report.

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/276, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted a review of the informal practice of the Secretariat of sharing information in consultants' reports on management-related issues. In the absence of a specific definition, management-related issues were deemed to be those dealing with the general administration of the Organization's activities.

2. Periodically, the United Nations obtains expertise not available in the Secretariat and for which there is not a long-term need from consultants or institutional or corporate contractors. A consultant is defined in administrative instruction ST/AI/1999/7 as follows:

> ... an individual who is a recognized authority or specialist in a specific field, engaged by the United Nations under temporary contract in an advisory or consultative capacity to the Secretariat. A consultant must have special skills or knowledge not normally possessed by the regular staff of the Organization and for which there is no continuing need in the Secretariat. The functions of a consultant are results-oriented and normally involve ... writing reports on the matters within their area of expertise on which their advice or assistance is sought ...

There is no formal definition of an institutional or corporate contractor, but administrative instruction ST/AI/327 states that the temporary services of individuals required by the Organization from time to time may be obtained by their engagement as contractors under a contract entered into directly with an institution or a corporation. In the present report, the term "consultant" is used to cover individual consultants and institutional or corporate contractors providing specialist expertise to the Secretariat.

3. During informal deliberations by the Fifth Committee at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", the Secretariat informed the Committee that some of the proposals for its consideration had been developed on the basis of advice received from consultants. The Committee requested copies of the related consultants' reports. While one department provided the report, another did not, stating that as a policy it did not release copies of consultants' reports but that it was willing to provide extracts from the report in question. A third department was not willing to share the report because it was still under review and a decision on whether it would be accepted was pending. A fourth department declined the request, stating that consultant reports were sought by the Secretary-General to provide technical guidance that could be used by the Secretariat in formulating proposals to intergovernmental bodies, which inevitably take into consideration both technical and policy matters. Accordingly, consultants work under terms of reference that reflect technical but not policy criteria, and their reports consequently are not "decision-ready" for the intergovernmental process. The department further stated that under the circumstances, the Secretary-General did not release consultant studies. If there were a requirement to routinely release consultant reports, the consultants' terms of reference would need to be broadened beyond the technical sphere into policy matters. However, that would represent an

inappropriate use of consultants, who, in principle, should not be involved in United Nations policy matters.

4. The Secretariat, however, indicated to the Fifth Committee that there was an informal practice of sharing consultants' reports among departments and offices as required.

5. In its resolution 63/276, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the modalities to be applied regarding the sharing of information contained in consultants' reports on management-related issues. The Assembly decided that such reports should be made available by the Secretary-General, upon the request of Member States, subject to approval by the Assembly of the modalities to be applied. While noting the existing practice of sharing consultants' reports informally, the Fifth Committee requested the Secretary-General to entrust OIOS with carrying out a review of the practices of the Secretariat in that regard.

II. Objectives and methodology

6. The objectives of the OIOS review were to determine the extent to which information on management-related issues in consultants' reports is shared among departments and offices in the Secretariat and to assess the attitude of departments and offices to sharing consultants' reports with legislative bodies and Member States.

7. To obtain a better understanding of the existing practice of sharing information contained in consultants' reports, OIOS reviewed the guidelines on the use of consultants and the handling of confidential information and also conducted a survey of departments and offices at United Nations Headquarters that had consultancy contracts. OIOS limited the survey to Headquarters in the belief that the outcomes of those consultancies were more likely to have an impact on the general management of the Secretariat. The review covered consultancy contracts that were issued between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2009.

8. During the period under review, departments and offices at Headquarters entered into 2,793 contracts with institutional or corporate contractors or individual consultants (see table 1).

Table 1
Contracts with consultants between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2009

	Institutional or corporate contractor agreements		*Consulting contracts*	
Department/Office	*Not to exceed (United States dollars)*	*Number of contracts*	*Fee (United States dollars)*	*Number*
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	2 520 276	110	9 876 399	1 060
Department of Field Support/Department of Peacekeeping Operations	238 342	12	8 847 209	374
Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	30 000	1	72 635	9
Department of Management	561 498	17	9 238 738	295
Department of Political Affairs	66 550	6	14 357 287	320
Department of Public Information	155 095	12	95 885	11
Department of Safety and Security	25 813	1	564 512	36
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	98 000	5	2 794 177	84
Ethics Office	—	—	406 395	5
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	144 518	4	3 448 424	113
Office of Internal Oversight Services	364 531	12	1 597 023	63
Office of Legal Affairs	—	—	435 604	46
Office of the Ombudsman	—	—	29 250	4
United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund	71 400	3	145 150	6
Other	105 186	6	5 909 000	178
Total	**4 381 209**	**189**	**57 817 688**	**2 604**

Source: Details of institutional or corporate contract agreements obtained from the Procurement Division. Details of consultants' contracts obtained from the Office of Human Resources Management.

9. Furthermore, the departments and offices entered into approximately 40 contracts,[1] valued at about $20 million, with vendors to obtain outside expertise or professional services on management-related issues.

10. OIOS sent questionnaires to 12 departments and offices of the Secretariat relating to 36 contracts that had been initiated by them, with a total contract value of $6.7 million (see annex). OIOS received 29 responses, a response rate of 85 per cent. The sample for the survey was geared towards consultancies that:

(a) Had starting dates between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2009;

(b) Lasted up to approximately one year;

(c) Were related to the study of a subject matter that was perceived to be a management-related issue.

[1] Since the Procurement Division does not have a classification system for consultancy contracts, these contracts were identified either from the title of the contract or the name of the vendor.

11. For each contract identified, the survey sought to determine:

(a) Whether the commissioning department or office would be willing to share the report with legislative bodies or Member States;

(b) Whether the commissioning department or office would be willing to share the report with United Nations funds and programmes;

(c) Whether reports had been shared with anyone outside the department or office that commissioned the consultancy;

(d) Where consultants' reports were stored within departments or offices and which staff members had access to them.

12. The questionnaire also asked whether departments and offices had instituted any procedures on how to handle and categorize consultants' reports in accordance with the guidance provided in Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2007/6 on information sensitivity, classification and handling.

13. On reviewing the detailed consultants' reports that accompanied the completed questionnaires, OIOS disregarded two responses because it was of the view that the subject matter of the relevant consultancies was too narrow in focus and not related to general management issues.

III. Sharing of consultants' reports within the Secretariat

A. Access to reports within departments and offices should be improved

14. The results of the survey revealed that there were varying practices in dealing with consultants' reports. Some 48 per cent of respondents indicated that they stored copies of reports in a central location, accessible by either particular staff members or all staff members in the division or service of the department or office that commissioned the consultancy. The remaining 52 per cent of respondents stated that they did not store reports in a central location.

15. In cases where reports are not stored in a central location or a record of their location is not stored centrally, staff members not involved in the original consultancy may not know that they exist or may be able to trace the reports only on the basis of their colleagues' institutional memory. With staff turnover and/or office relocation, there may be problems in locating a report. Two offices surveyed were unable to trace consultants' reports produced during the period under review. Under such circumstances, the progress of work may be hindered while staff await the provision by consultants of duplicate copies of the reports, if available.

B. Reports are by and large shared with relevant departments and offices

16. When it came to sharing copies of reports or information contained in them with other departments or offices, most respondents (78 per cent) indicated that they shared the reports identified in the survey with departments and offices to which they felt the reports would be relevant. The main reasons given for sharing reports

were to request the departments and offices to provide their input and views; to validate the consultants' findings; to share information with stakeholders; or as part of an operational or audit process. Notably, however, there was one report which several entities requested but were not given copies of, with the response that they should refer to the related report of the Secretary-General, which contained information from the consultant's report. OIOS compared the two reports and found that the report of the Secretary-General did include practically all of the information in the consultant's "short" report on which it was based. However, there was a much longer version of the consultant's report, with detailed feedback on surveys of specialized agencies, which was not shared with the requesting agencies. The agencies might have found the additional information useful.

IV. Sharing of consultants' reports with legislative bodies or Member States

17. OIOS asked respondents whether they would be willing to share consultants' reports with legislative bodies and Member States and to explain the rationale for their responses (see table 2).

Table 2
Willingness to share consultants' reports

	With legislative bodies		*With Member States*	
Response	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Yes	5	19	7	27
No	6	23	6	23
Report already shared with entities	2	8	2	8
Legislative bodies and Member States will be referred to the relevant report of the Secretary-General	3	12	3	12
Departments and offices will evaluate the request	6	23	3	12
Departments and offices will follow internal policy	2	8	3	12
Departments and offices will redraft the report before sharing	2	8	2	8

18. Among the respondents who indicated that they would be willing to share consultants' reports, one of them believed it was the right of Member States to have access to such reports. However, six (23 per cent) respondents replied that they would not be willing to share the reports in question: two because they had not accepted the recommendations of the consultants or thought the methodologies adopted were not rigorous enough; another two because they thought the subject matter of the consultancy was of no relevance to those bodies; and two because they thought it would be inappropriate to do so. The respondent from the latter department expressed the view that consultants' reports were to be used only as input for policy decisions, reports or proposals for consideration by the General Assembly and that the consultants did not directly guide the policy decisions. Three respondents preferred that legislative bodies and Member States rely on the related report of the Secretary-General but would make the reports available if requested.

Another 23 per cent responded that they would evaluate requests for sharing reports, bearing in mind the confidentiality of their content, before reaching a decision. Eight per cent stated that they would follow internal policy, although there is no such policy that expressly guides the decision on whether to share consultants' reports.

19. Some departments and offices expressed concern that if consultants were aware that their reports would be widely available, it might impair the candidness of the consultants' advice or assessment and thus limit the value of their reports to management. Therefore, a decision to allow consultants' reports to be made available outside the Secretariat might have unintended consequences. One office expressed concern that a report not prepared for a wider audience could be misunderstood, making it necessary to redraft certain parts of it and/or provide some context for the report. There were also some reservations about providing access to consultants' reports for fear that it might raise their status from being merely advisory to the level of widely accepted guidance or standards that the Secretariat must adopt.

20. Consultants' reports generally contain recommendations or advice on a particular subject matter. While consultants bring in information and practices from their various industries to the Organization, they may not always be in concert with the uniquely complex nature of the United Nations. Consultants may view issues only from a technical standpoint without considering the full ramifications of their conclusions in the United Nations environment. It is the responsibility of programme managers to synthesize information from various sources and combine it with their perspectives and technical considerations before formulating a new proposal or revised policy.

21. OIOS is of the view that the concerns expressed by departments and offices are valid. Making consultants' reports available to legislative bodies and Member States may suggest that the reports constitute information that is directly useful to the governance of the Secretariat and may dilute management's accountability for reports containing proposals or information for which the consultants' input was sought. On the other hand, however, there is no practice in the Secretariat to ensure that consultants' reports are used solely as input for management decisions. To remedy this gap, OIOS recommends that all reports presented to legislative bodies clearly indicate whether input from consultants was used in their preparation, and, if so, that they include, at a minimum, a succinct explanation of the background of the consultancies and how the input has been used. This would contribute to ensuring sufficient transparency and accountability in the use of consultants' reports and should be considered by the Secretary-General in developing modalities on sharing information included in such reports.

V. Need for fuller implementation of existing guidelines on the classification of information

22. Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2007/6 provides guidance on the classification and secure handling of confidential information. Paragraph 3.1 of the bulletin states that originators or recipients of information, under the overall supervision and guidance of the head of department or office, shall decide whether information created or received is sensitive and mark it with a classification of "confidential" or "strictly confidential". None of the departments and offices surveyed had established procedures to categorize information on the basis of sensitivity.

23. Paragraph 3.2 of the same bulletin stipulates that where information received from an external source contains sensitivity markings, the Secretariat must assign to the document greater or equal protection as that indicated by the entity providing the information. Out of the 27 consultants' reports reviewed by OIOS, 3 could be regarded as classified in terms of ST/SGB/2007/6 — one had been designated as commercial-in-confidence, and in two cases the consultants had restricted the distribution of their reports to the Secretariat. The remaining reports did not have any sensitivity marking, and the recipients had not classified them to restrict their distribution. This implies that they were available for sharing when in fact they were not, as requests for some reports were declined. The reports were therefore not given the appropriate categorization.

24. In its recent audit of data privacy in the Secretariat, OIOS found that it lacked a system of controls to ensure the adequate management and protection of data privacy. There were no Secretariat-wide privacy standards to guide departments and offices in developing privacy requirements and policies specific to their functions. This exposed the Organization to the risk that private data may not be processed in a consistent manner. OIOS recommended that the responsible unit, in coordination with the Office of Legal Affairs, develop a Secretariat-wide privacy policy. The Office has indicated that it supports this recommendation.

25. A number of respondents to the survey indicated a need for further guidance on implementing ST/SGB/2007/6. The Archives and Records Management Section of the Department of Management has embarked on a project with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop an information security toolkit to provide hands-on guidance in applying the provisions of the bulletin. In developing the toolkit, due regard should be given to the need for ensuring data privacy.

VI. Conclusion

26. The United Nations utilizes the services of consultants in many situations. The recommendations or advice contained in their reports are not binding on the Secretariat, and management may decide to adopt none, some or all of them. Where information in consultants' reports is used as input for reports by programme managers to legislative bodies, the reports should state this fact and succinctly explain the background for the consultancies and how the input has been used. This will ensure sufficient transparency and accountability in the use of consultants' reports.

27. While some effort is being made to identify departments and offices to which such reports may be relevant and to share the reports with them, there is currently no mechanism for the Secretariat as a whole to be aware of the existence of such reports or to request them for official use. There is need to develop a taxonomy, or classification system, to categorize consultants' reports and record all consultancies in a database so that they can be better shared within the Secretariat. Such an initiative can be undertaken by the Working Group on Knowledge Management, which was set up in 2008 to provide strategic direction, review proposed investments in information and communications technology and monitor projects and programmes to ensure the retention of institutional knowledge. Furthermore, a central repository should be created to store consultants' reports and facilitate their retrieval.

28. Some consultancies relate to matters that are of a highly confidential nature (e.g. safety and security, behavioural studies of personnel and commercial transactions) the outcome of which, if disclosed, could be detrimental to the Organization and third parties. Such reports should be given the appropriate protection by marking them as "confidential" or "strictly confidential" and sharing them only in exceptional cases, in accordance with the precautions outlined in ST/SGB/2007/6.

VII. Recommendations

Recommendation 1

29. The Secretary-General, in developing the modalities for sharing information contained in consultants' reports on management-related issues, should consider including a requirement that all reports prepared by the Secretariat and presented to legislative bodies that include information extracted from consultants' reports must also include an explanation of the background of the related consultancies and how the information has been used.

30. *The Department of Management accepted recommendation 1.*

Recommendation 2

31. The Department of Management, in developing an information security toolkit to provide hands-on guidance for applying Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2007/6 on the classification and secure handling of confidential information, should require heads of departments and offices to develop criteria that are unique to their operations to guide the categorization of information according to its sensitivity.

32. *The Department of Management accepted recommendation 2, stating that its Archives and Records Management Section would be available to assist departments and offices in identifying resources, including practice toolkits and guidelines, to implement a records management system meeting the requirements of ST/SGB/2007/6 for handling consultant reports and executive summaries.*

Recommendation 3

33. The Department of Management, within the context of the Working Group on Knowledge Management, should initiate a taxonomy for consultants' reports to organize their storage and easy retrieval.

34. *The Department of Management accepted recommendation 3.*

Recommendation 4

35. The Department of Management should define the requirements to develop a platform that would serve as a central repository for storing consultants' reports within the Secretariat.

36. *The Department of Management accepted recommendation 4, stating that the Office of Information and Communications Technology would be requested to develop a platform that would serve as a central repository for storing consultants' reports within the Secretariat. However, once the platform has been developed, each individual department or office shall be responsible for the maintenance of effective*

records systems to ensure that executive summaries and full reports of consultants on management-related issues are filed properly and can be accessed in a timely manner in response to requests from a Member State. A decentralized approach for storing consultants' reports based on a common technological platform is the most efficient way to handle this problem.

(*Signed*) Inga-Britt **Ahlenius**
Under-Secretary-General
Office of Internal Oversight Services

Annex

List of contracts included in the survey

Contract number	*Subject*	*Requisitioner*	*Amount not to exceed (United States dollars)*
1. PD/C0184/06	E-accounting development	DESA	160 700
2. PD/C0049/08	Consultancy services for development of technical evaluation criteria for four-wheel-drive vehicles	DFS	123 840
3. PD/C0062/05	Consultancy services for technical review of statement of requirement for heavy-duty logistic support vehicles	DFS	43 502
4. PD/C0219/06	Review of the procurement process for the request for proposals for construction in relation to the capital master plan	DM	65 140
5. PD/C0199/06	Construction financial analysis services for the capital master plan project	DM	199 355
6. PD/C0236/07	Review of accountability framework of the United Nations	DM	325 180
7. PD/C0214/07	Provision of professional services for the development of enterprise risk management programme and internal control framework	DM	1 320 000
8. PD/C0125/07	Provision of professional services in connection with the enterprise resource planning project	DM	1 173 169
9. PD/C0042/06	Provision of professional services	UNJSPF	309 605
10. PD/C0205/05	Integrated Management Information System and enterprise resource planning systems study	DM	362 100
11. PD/C0234/06	Provision of services — gap study of Integrated Management Information System and enterprise resource planning systems	DM	92 100
12. PD/C0142/07	Provision of consultancy services to support the air charter team of the Procurement Service	DM	175 550
13. PD/C0244/07	Provision of professional services — review of current pension scheme provisions for judges	DM	40 000
14. PD/C0216/05	Cost accounting feasibility study of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	DM	138 055
15. PD/C0296/05	Review of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	DM	480 000
16. PD/C0014/06	Consultancy services for implementation of the cash management application	DM	135 250
17. PD/C0276/08	Consulting services evolution of the support account for peacekeeping operations	DM	160 768
18. PD/C0099/07	Provision of professional services — background statement of work and technical evaluation criteria for an enterprise solution	UNJSPF	693 766
19. ICA-1807	Preparation of a report on the development of the United Nations system-wide gender-mainstreaming policy strategy	DESA	15 000
20. ICA-1762	Undertake a study analysing the slow advancement of women in selected organizations of the United Nations system	DESA	29 295
21. ICA-1819	Undertake research on debt relief and fiscal space for the Millennium Development Goals for African countries	DESA	27 500
22. ICA-1825	Undertake a study on measuring the impact of inflation on the poor — Uganda case study	DESA	29 700
23. ICA-1956	Assess the short- and medium-term outlook for the world economy for presentation to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council	DESA	90 000
24. ICA-1846	Consultancy services for facilitation of consultation process	DESA	29 175
25. ICA-1795	Consultancy services on outsourcing of conference services	DGACM	30 000
26. ICA-1884	Consultancy services for the Procurement Service	DM	180 000

Contract number	*Subject*	*Requisitioner*	*Amount not to exceed (United States dollars)*
27. ICA-1888	Evaluation of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security	OCHA	98 500
28. ICA-1907	Consultancy services to review fuel and related services solicitation process of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	DPKO	28 850
29. ICA-1992	Produce a comprehensive report with an actionable implementation plan analysing all relevant organizational and human resources requirements	UNJSPF	42 400
30. 13012	Contract to provide expertise for the review of United Nations capacity	DPA	33 000
31. 14707	Systems analyst to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the roster of electoral experts	DPA	27 000
32. 14381	Consultancy service for the Dag Hammarskjöld Library	DPI	18 000
33. 16417	Undertake a review of the sales and marketing cluster of the Outreach Division	DPI	9 750
34. 15699	Prepare a briefing paper (8-10 pages)	PBSO	5 300
35. 15754	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea consultant	OLA	6 500
36. 16477	Three months' special service agreement effective 1 October to 31 December 2008	DGACM	27 900
Total			**6 725 950**

Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; DFS, Department of Field Support; DM, Department of Management; UNJSPF, United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund; DGACM, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; OCHA, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; DPA, Department of Political Affairs; DPI, Department of Public Information; PBSO, Peacebuilding Support Office; OLA, Office of Legal Affairs.